

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 /067 W  
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R 211803Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7229

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0236

USCINCSO PASS TO POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR; PBOR; PGOV; ES; HO; XK

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON HIS MEETING WITH HONDURAN COS

LOPEZ IN GUATEMALA

1. PRESIDENT MOLINA CALLED CHARGE TO CASA PRESIDENCIAL JANUARY 20 TO CONVEY HIS IMPRESSIONS OF JANUARY 18 MEETING IN GUATEMALA OF FOUR CA PRESIDENTS. MOLINA DESCRIBED MEETING AS DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO TWO ISSUES, IMPLICATIONS OF NEW TRADE ACT ON REGION (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND HONDURAN - SALVADORAN DISPUTE. FROM WHAT PRESIDENT SAID, DISCUSSIONS ON LATTER ISSUE WERE LARGELY CONFINED TO HIMSELF AND HONDURAN COS LOPEZ.

2. MOLINA CLAIMED THAT HE TOOK INITIATIVE AND SUGGESTED TO LOPEZ THAT 1975 HAS TO BE THE YEAR TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTE. HE GAVE THREE REASONS WHY PROMPT EFFORT MUST BE MADE. FIRST, 1976 WILL BRING LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN EL SALVADOR WHICH WOULD MEAN PARTISAN POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE SO HAZARDOUS TO DISCUSSIONS. SECOND, IN THIS PERIOD OF WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC STRESS AND HARDSHIP, TWO COUNTRIES  
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SHOULD STRIVE TO ELIMINATE THIS ADDITIONAL IMPEDIMENT WHICH ONLY MAKES

BAD SITUATION WORSE AND WHICH HAS BEEN COSTLY TO BOTH OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS IN TERMS OF LOST OPPORTUNITIES AND DISRUPTED TRADE. LASTLY, MOLINA SAID THEY MUST CAPITALIZE ON RECENTLY DEVELOPED SPIRIT OF GOOD FEELINGS AND CA BROTHERHOOD DERIVED, IN PART FROM THE "ENORMOUS PROGRESS" THE TWO COS'S HAVE MADE FROM THEIR RECENT PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS AND DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS. HE SAID HE FEELS HE AND LOPEZ "REALLY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER AND SHARE A MUTUAL CONFIDENCE".

3. MOLINA HAD LITTLE TO SUGGEST AS NEXT STEPS, BEYOND: CONTINUING TO PUSH OVERT SIGNS OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP (PUBLIC ABRAZOS, PRESENT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN OF "CINCO PUEBLOS, UN DESTINO") AND AGREEMENT REACHED THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS WILL GET TOGETHER AGAIN SOON, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS LATE FEBRUARY.

4. MOLINA EXPRESSED AGAIN TO CHARGE HIS WARM THANKS FOR BENEFICIAL AND ENCOURAGING ROLE USG HAS PLAYED IN EFFORTS TO SOLVE DISPUTE. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT USG HAS NOT, AND PROPERLY COULD NOT, GET INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS TO DATE, PRESIDENT DID ASK FOR ANY HELP WE MIGHT GIVE, WHEN PROPER TIME COMES, IN CONVINCING HIS LOCAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO TREAT ANY AGREEMENT IN "RESPONSIBLE, NON-DEMAGOGIC" MANNER. CHARGE ASSURED PRESIDENT THAT, WITHIN MISSION'S LIMITED CAPABILITIES, IT WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT COULD TO FURTHER SETTLEMENT.

COMMENT: WHILE PRESIDENT'S MOOD AND OPTIMISM WERE OBVIOUSLY IN AN UPWARD MODE, AND HE IS SINCERELY CONVINCED OF NEED TO MOVE AHEAD, HIS WORDS WERE CONFINED TO GENERALITIES. WHETHER HE AND OTHERS INVOLVED, ON BOTH SIDES, CAN MAINTAIN THE FORWARD MOTION WHEN THEY COLLIDE OVER THE NITTY-GRITTY ISSUES WHICH WILL SURFACE IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, IS ANOTHER MATTER.  
MOSKOWITZ

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